

What is claimed is:

1. A printing control method for controlling color tones of prints in time of a printing operation having an image data  
5 creating process for creating image data for making the prints, and a printing process for performing printing based on the image data created in the image data creating process, wherein  
said image data creating process includes:  
10 a representative point setting step for setting representative points for use in controlling color tones in images; and  
a representative point information storing step for storing representative point information including informa-  
15 tion on positions of said representative points; and  
said printing process includes:  
an information receiving step for receiving said representative point information along with said image data;  
20 a printing executing step for executing printing based on said image data; and  
a color tone controlling step for controlling the color tones of the prints by using image data of the prints produced in said printing executing step and said  
25 representative point information.

2. A printing control method as defined in claim 1, wherein said representative point information includes information on color tones at said representative points.

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3. A printing control method as defined in claim 1, wherein said printing process is carried out for correcting the representative point information stored in said image data creating process.

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4. A printing control method as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

an image data correcting process for correcting said image data so that the color tones at the representative points set in said representative point setting step agree with target color tones;

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wherein said information receiving step is executed to receive said representative point information along with the image data corrected in said image data correcting

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process.

5. A printing control method as defined in claim 1, wherein said image data creating process includes a PDL data creating process for creating PDL data, and a platemaking data creating process for creating platemaking data based on said

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PDL data created in said PDL data creating process, said PDL data creating process and said platemaking data creating process using common representative point information.

5    6. A printing control method as defined in claim 5, wherein said platemaking data creating process is carried out for correcting the representative point information used in said PDL data creating process.

10   7. An image data creating apparatus for creating image data for producing prints, comprising:

representative point setting means for setting representative points for use in controlling color tones in images; and

15        information storage means for storing, along with said image data, representative point information including information on positions of said representative points.

8. An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim 7,  
20   wherein said representative point information includes information on color tones at said representative points.

9. An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim 7,  
wherein said representative point information stored in said  
25   information storage means is corrected.

10. An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim 7,  
further comprising:

image data correcting means for correcting said  
5 image data so that color tones at the representative points  
agree with target color tones;

wherein said information storage means is arranged  
to store said representative point information including said  
information on the positions of said representative points  
10 along with the image data corrected by said image data  
correcting means.

11. An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim 7,  
further comprising:

15 PDL data creating means for creating PDL data, and  
platemaking data creating means for creating platemaking  
data based on said PDL data created by said PDL data  
creating means, said PDL data creating means and said  
platemaking data creating means using common  
20 representative point information.

12. An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim  
11, wherein said platemaking data creating means is  
arranged to correct the representative point information  
25 used by said PDL data creating means.

13. Data for image creation comprising:  
image data for producing prints; and  
representative point information including informa-  
5 tion on positions of representative points set for controlling  
color tones in images to be printed by using said image data.

14. Data for image creation as defined in claim 13, wherein  
said representative point information includes information  
10 on color tones at said representative points.